

CLAIMS

1. A cargo cover storage system for a vehicle having a cargo bay, the cargo cover storage system comprising:

5 cover members adapted to cooperate with each other to at least partially cover; and

two bracket assemblies configured to be connectable and disconnectable from the vehicle;

10 wherein said bracket assemblies are adapted to support one of said cover members above the other of said cover members when said bracket assemblies are connected to the vehicle such that said cover members are secured to the vehicle in a relatively stacked manner above the cargo bay and the cargo bay is at least partially uncovered.

2. The cargo cover storage system of claim 1, further comprising:

two cover support portions mounted to the vehicle and configured to cooperate with said bracket assemblies in supporting said one of said cover members.

3. The cargo cover storage system of claim 1, wherein said bracket assemblies are collapsible.

4. The cargo cover storage system of claim 1, further comprising two bracket receptacle assemblies connected to the vehicle, wherein each of said bracket receptacle assemblies is adapted for supporting one of said bracket assemblies.

5. The cargo cover storage system of claim 4, wherein each of said bracket receptacle assemblies includes a slot, and wherein each of said bracket assemblies includes a tab adapted to mate with said slot to at least partially support said one bracket assembly in said bracket receptacle assembly.

6. The cargo cover storage system of claim 5, wherein each of said bracket assemblies includes a latch pin, and wherein each of said bracket receptacle assemblies includes a tab adapted to receive said latch pin to further support said one bracket assembly in said bracket receptacle assembly.

7. The cargo cover storage system of claim 1, wherein said one of said cover members includes two latches adapted to latch said one of said cover members to said bracket assemblies.

8. The cargo cover storage system of claim 7, wherein each of said bracket assemblies includes a preload feature adapted to enhance the latching of said one of said cover members to said bracket assemblies.

9. The cargo cover storage system of claim 1, wherein each of said bracket assemblies includes a post portion and a first platform portion connected to said post portion, wherein said post portion is adapted to secure said bracket assembly to the vehicle, and wherein said first platform portion is adapted to support said one of said 5 cover members.

10. The cargo cover storage system of claim 9, wherein said one of said cover members includes a latch adapted to latch said one of said cover members to said first platform portion.

11. The cargo cover storage system of claim 10, wherein said first platform portion includes a preload feature adapted to enhance the latching of said one of said cover members to said first platform portion.

12. The cargo cover storage system of claim 9, further comprising:

a second platform portion connected to said post portion, wherein said first and second platforms are pivotable about said post portion;

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wherein said second platform portion pivots downward independently of said first platform portion for supporting another of said cover members.

13. The cargo cover storage system of claim 1, wherein said cover members are secured to the vehicle without touching.

14. A cargo cover storage system comprising:

cover members adapted to cooperate with each other to at least partially cover and at least partially uncover a cargo bay of a vehicle;

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two bracket assemblies configured to be connectable and disconnectable from the vehicle, wherein each of said bracket assemblies includes a post portion and a platform portion, wherein said post portion includes a bracket tab and a latch pin;

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two bracket receptacle assemblies connectable to the vehicle, wherein each bracket receptacle assembly includes a slot configured to receive said bracket tab and a receptacle tab adapted to permit said latch pin to latch said post portion to said bracket receptacle assembly;

15 wherein said platform portion is adapted to support one of said cover members when the bracket assemblies are connected to the vehicle; and

20 two cover support portions connected to the vehicle, wherein each cover support portion is configured to cooperate with said platform portion in supporting said one of said cover members above the other of said cover members such that said cover members are secured to the vehicle in a relatively stacked manner above the cargo bay without touching each other and the cargo bay is at least partially uncovered.

15. A method of storing a cargo cover for a vehicle having a cargo bay, wherein said cargo cover is comprised of two cover members, including a first cover member and a second cover member, the method comprising:

5 disconnecting said second cover member from the vehicle such that the cargo bay is at least partially uncovered; and

10 connecting said second cover member to the vehicle above the first cover member via two bracket assemblies and two cover support portions such that said cover members are relatively stacked above the partially uncovered cargo bay.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

extending said bracket assemblies from a collapsed state to an extended state.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein two bracket receptacle assemblies are connected to the vehicle and further comprising:

5 placing said bracket assemblies into said bracket receptacle assemblies  
such that said bracket assemblies are operatively secured to said bracket receptacle  
assemblies.

18. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

disconnecting said second cover member from said bracket assemblies.

19. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

disconnecting said bracket assemblies from the vehicle.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising:

collapsing said bracket assemblies.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the vehicle includes a storage  
compartment, and further comprising:

5 placing said bracket assemblies in said storage compartment for storing  
said bracket assemblies.